

MONICA MONIN

## Utopia Girls: How women won the vote

2013 | *Australian Broadcasting Commission*

This research can be located in the field of visual communication design, specifically motion design and computational design processes.

The documentary *Utopia Girls: How Women Won the Vote* was developed and aired by the ABC (2013). It tells the previously untold story of how women in Australia were the first in the world to attain full political rights. For this documentary I generated animated sections for the title and end sequences.

Most design practitioners use computers as a 'black box' with minimal knowledge or manipulation of the internal processes and underlying technologies of computation. The use of proprietary software delimits the natural mutability of the digital to pre-configured systems. The capability of some proprietary software is extended through the inclusion of scripting or programming languages.

This research contributes to the field of visual communication design by looking at design's relationship with and expressive use of computation and how, through this engagement, designers are able to move away from pre-configured solutions towards the precise realisation of ideas. Within my practice, code is the primary material of design generation and for this animation I utilised the proprietary software After Effects and its internal scripting language. This approach was used to further extend, control and individualise my design according to my envisaged outcomes beyond the standard configurations in the software.

Along with Kylie Robertson and Rebecca Stegh, who designed other parts of the introductory sequence and animations throughout the film, I was nominated for an AACTA Award (previously AFI) in 2013 for Best Visual Effects.

*Image detail of opening sequence*

**MONICA MONIN**  
**Utopia Girls: How women  
won the vote**



Stills from the animated sequence

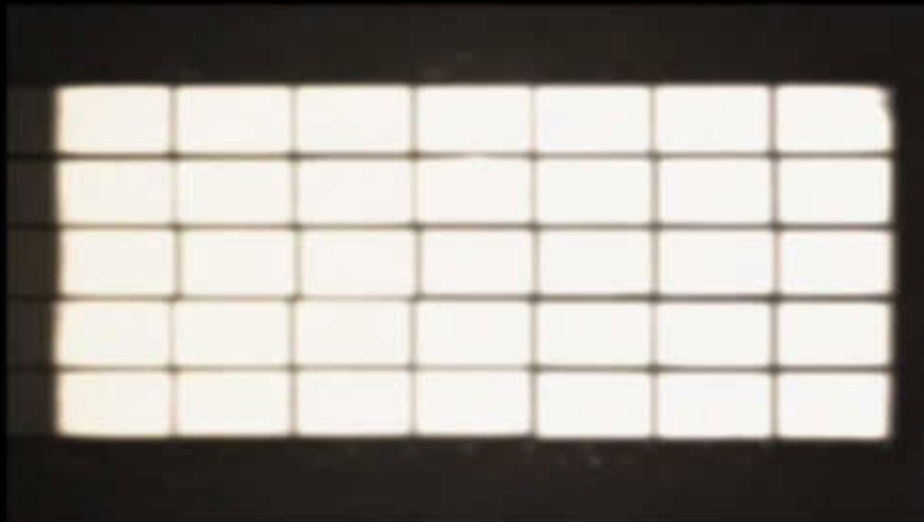
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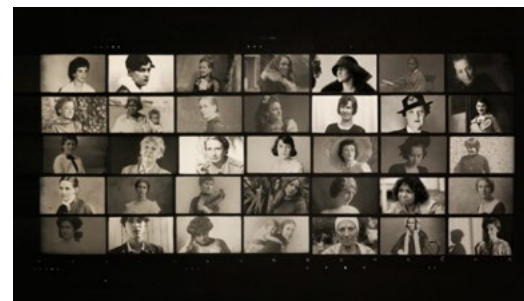
Video file of a short sequence from  
the full work

**(Click on screen to activate)**

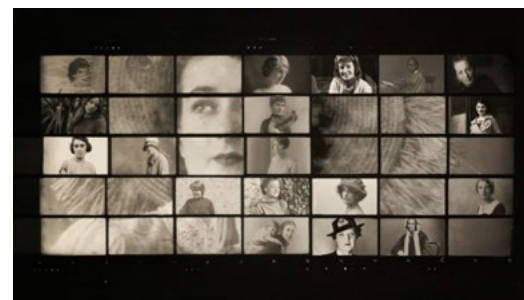
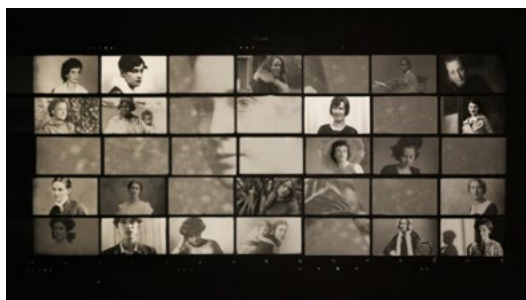


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Stills from the animated sequence



Weblinks:

<http://www.aacta.org/winners-nominees/2nd-aacta-awards.aspx>

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/movies/sapphires-in-running-for-12-aussie-oscars-20121203-2aqs2.html>

